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February 21, 2003 LB 274

explained to you already. That is the amendment, and any questions that you have, I'm prepared to answer them. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the opening on AM0506 to LB 274. Open for discussion. Senator Erdman, followed by Senators Kremer and McDonald.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of Legislature. I appreciate Senator Chambers' legislation. think that what he's proposing in the underlying bill, in LB 274 with the committee amendments, is essentially putting into state law what's already being done in our humane societies and our shelters in the state of Nebraska. I had the opportunity to essentially purchase an animal from the humane society in Scottsbluff, and one of the requirements was that they had to...we had to have a process in place where the animal would be spayed or neutered before I could take it home, because it was old enough to do that. And so essentially, what's being proposed in LB 274, in addition to the licensing, is a guideline to say what we're already doing now is going to be put in statute. I think that's fair. I think the comment made on the underlying amendment, AM0506, offered by Senator Chambers, does bring a little bit of a concern to me. Not to Senator Chambers' fault, however. I think he did an exceptional job of trying to bring people to the table to talk about the issues before us. As he said earlier, he did bring this amendment and offered it at the committee hearing. My thought is this, is that under the idea of going to licensing the pet shops, I think it's important that we have standards for them and I think it's important that we think through this. I'm not sure, though, that this is the place to do this. I'm not sure if we shouldn't say, we're going to do this, and next year bring a bill. I'm sure a majority of us here, including myself, would be looking forward to having that discussion to find out if there's some differences that maybe need to come into consideration under licensing a pet shop as opposed to the humane society and other groups that were already there at the hearing. That's my concern. I don't think there's a double standard, to be honest with you. struck down on the floor for bringing up ideas that didr't have a hearing, and I took my amendment back and introduced a bill.